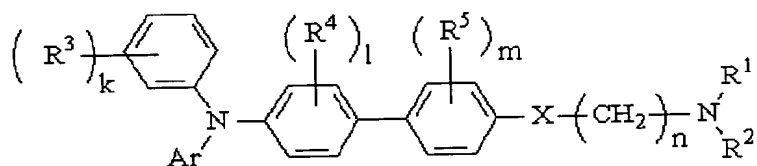


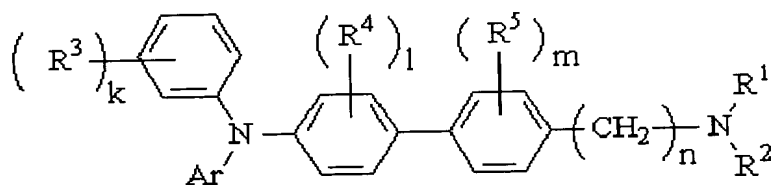
# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor, comprising:  
 a conductive support; and  
 a photosensitive layer disposed above the conductive support,  
 herein the electrophotographic photoconductor, in an outermost surface layer of the  
 electrophotographic photoconductor, comprises:

a filler,  
 an organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g, and  
 at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the  
 following general formulas 1 and 2:



General Formula 1



General Formula 2

where R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups or aromatic hydrocarbon rings, and  
 may be identical or ~~different~~, different; and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> may also be bonded together to form a  
 substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing a nitrogen atom; R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> are substituted  
 or unsubstituted alkyl or alkoxy groups, or halogen atoms; Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted  
 aromatic hydrocarbon ring or aromatic heterocycle; n is an integer in the range 2 to 4; k, l, m

are respectively integers in the range 0 to 3; and X is, in the general formula 1, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom.

Claim 2 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g, is a polycarboxylic acid.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g, is at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyester resin, an acrylic resin, resin and a copolymer comprising these structures ~~, and a mixture thereof.~~

Claim 4 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of organic fatty acids is mixed with the organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g.

Claim 5 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the filler is at least one of inorganic materials.

Claim 6 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 5, wherein the inorganic material is a metal oxide.

Claim 7 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 5, wherein the pH of the inorganic material is 5 or more.

Claim 8 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 5, wherein the dielectric constant of the inorganic material is 5 or more.

Claim 9 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the average first -order particle diameter of the filler is  $0.01\mu\text{m}$  to  $0.5\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 10 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the outermost surface layer is a photosensitive layer.

Claim 11 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 10, wherein the photosensitive layer comprises a charge generating layer containing a charge generating material and a charge transport layer containing a charge transport material, the outermost surface layer being the charge transport layer.

Claim 12 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 11, wherein the charge transport material is a polymer charge transport material.

Claim 13 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the electrophotographic photoconductor comprises a protective layer, the protective layer being the outermost surface layer.

Claim 14 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 13, wherein the protective layer contains at least one of charge transport materials.

Claim 15 (Original): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 14, wherein the charge transport material is a polymer charge transport material.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the outermost surface layer of the photoconductor contains as a binder resin at least one selected from the group consisting of a polycarbonate resin and a polyarylate resin ~~as a binder resin~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 1, wherein the outermost surface layer is formed by coating an outermost surface layer coating solution containing:

a filler;

an organic compound having an acid value of 10 mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g;

at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the above general formulas 1 and 2; and

an antioxidant.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The electrophotographic photoconductor according to Claim 17, wherein the antioxidant is one selected from the group consisting of a hydroquinone compound and a hindered amine compound.

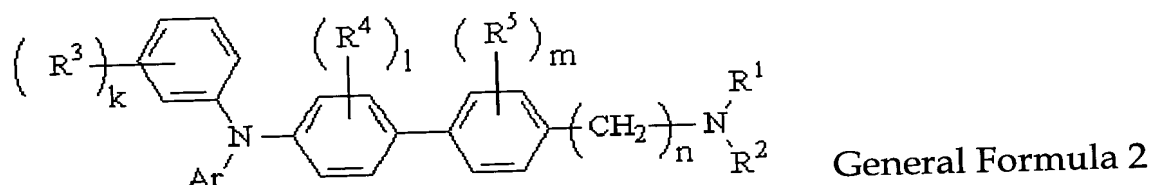
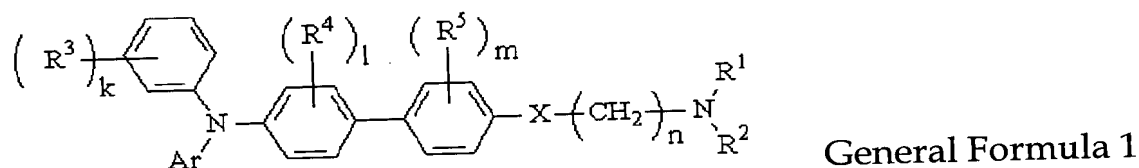
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor outermost surface layer coating solution, comprising:

a filler;

an organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g;

at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the

following general formulas 1 and 2:



where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups or aromatic hydrocarbon rings, and may be identical or ~~different~~, different; and  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  may also be bonded together to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing a nitrogen atom;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing a nitrogen atom;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkoxy groups, or halogen atoms;  $Ar$  is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon ring or aromatic heterocycle;  $n$  is an integer in the range 2 to 4;  $k$ ,  $l$ ,  $m$  are respectively integers in the range 0 to 3; and  $X$  is, in the general formula 1, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom; and

an antioxidant.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic photoconductor outermost surface layer coating solution according to Claim 19, wherein the antioxidant is one selected from the group consisting of a hydroquinone compound and a hindered amine compound.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic method, comprising the steps of:

charging an electrophotographic photoconductor;

exposing the charged photoconductor with an imagewise light so as to form an latent electrostatic image thereon;

supplying a developer to the formed latent electrostatic image so that a toner image is formed, thereby visualizing the latent electrostatic image; and

transferring the toner image formed by the developing step to a transfer material,

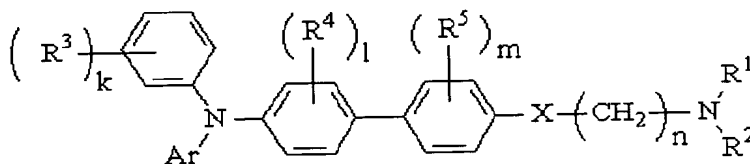
wherein the electrophotographic photoconductor, in an outermost surface layer of the electrophotographic photoconductor, comprises:

a filler,

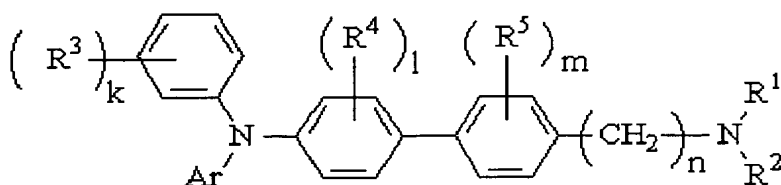
an organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g, and

at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the

following general formulas 1 and 2:



General Formula 1



General Formula 2

where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups or aromatic hydrocarbon rings, and may be identical or ~~different~~, different; and  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  may also be bonded together to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing a nitrogen atom;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkoxy groups, or halogen atoms; Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon ring or aromatic heterocycle; n is an integer in the range 2 to 4; k, l, m are respectively integers in the range 0 to 3; and X is, in the general formula 1, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic method according to Claim 21, wherein in the exposure step ~~employs a "digital method" where~~ the latent electrostatic image is written on the electrophotographic photoconductor by a LD or LED.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic apparatus, comprising:  
 an electrophotographic photoconductor;  
 a charger configured to uniformly charge a surface of the electrophotographic photoconductor;  
 an exposure unit configured to expose the charged photoconductor by the charger with an imagewise light so as to form an latent electrostatic image on the photoconductor;  
 a developing unit configured to supply a developer to the latent electrostatic image so that a toner image is formed, thereby visualizing the latent electrostatic image; and

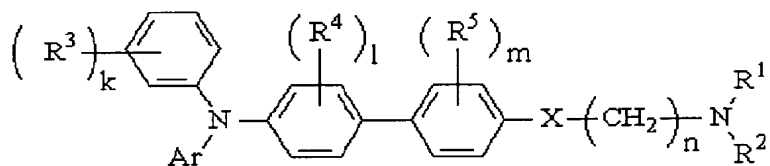
a transfer unit configured to transfer the formed toner image by the developing unit to a transfer material,

wherein the electrophotographic photoconductor, in an outermost surface layer of the electrophotographic photoconductor, comprises:

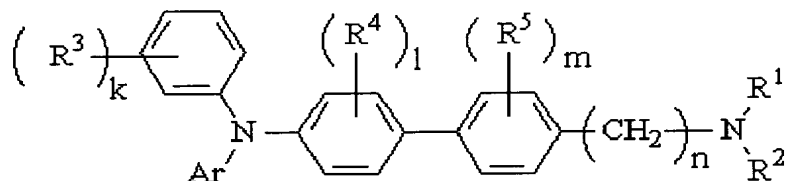
a filler,

an organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g, and

at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following general formulas 1 and 2:



General Formula 1



General Formula 2

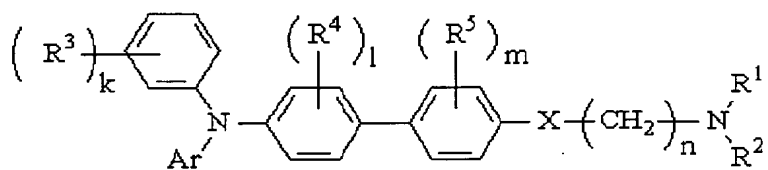
where, in the general formulas 1 and 2,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups or aromatic hydrocarbon rings, and may be identical or different, different; and  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  may also be bonded together to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing a nitrogen atom;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkoxy groups, or halogen atoms; Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon ring or aromatic heterocycle; n is an integer in the range 2 to 4, and k, l, m are respectively integers in the range 0 to 3; and X is, in the general formula 1, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom.



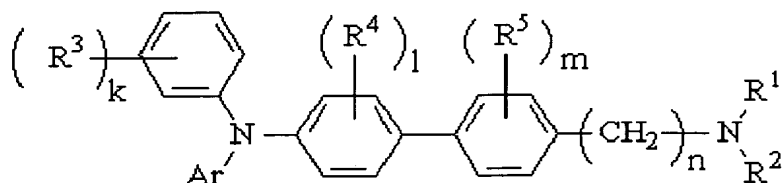
Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the exposure unit ~~employs a "digital method" where~~ is configured so that the latent electrostatic image is written on the electrophotographic photoconductor by a LD or LED.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An electrophotographic process cartridge, comprising:

- an electrophotographic photoconductor; and
- at least one selected from the group consisting of
  - a charger configured to uniformly charge a surface of the electrophotographic photoconductor,
  - a cleaning unit configured to clean the surface of the electrophotographic photoconductor, and
  - a developing unit configured to supply a developer to a latent electrostatic image formed on the electrophotographic photoconductor so that a toner image is formed, thereby visualizing the latent electrostatic image,
- wherein the electrophotographic process cartridge is formed in a one-piece construction such that the electrophotographic process cartridge is freely replaceable from an electrophotographic apparatus, and wherein the electrophotographic photoconductor, in an outermost surface layer of the electrophotographic photoconductor, contains:
  - a filler,
  - an organic compound having an acid value of 10mgKOH/g to 400mgKOH/g, and
  - at least one selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following general formulas 1 and 2:



General Formula 1



General Formula 2

where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups or aromatic hydrocarbon rings, and may be identical or ~~different~~, different; and  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  may also be bonded together to form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing a nitrogen atom;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkoxy groups, or halogen atoms; Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon ring or aromatic heterocycle; n is an integer in the range 2 to 4; k, l, m are respectively integers in the range 0 to 3; and X is, in the general formula 1, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom.